

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, May 30, 2016 10:59 AM
Subject: Council Speaker Registration/Testimony

Speaker Registration/Testimony

All fields marked "(*)" are required and must be completed in order for this form to be valid.

Note: Registrations are not accepted prior to the agendas being posted.

Name(*) Chris Jansen
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Email (*) cjansen@honoluluwaldorf.org
Meeting Date (*) 2016-06-01
Council/PH Committee (*) Council
Agenda Item (*) Bill 15, CD2 FD1-Ozawa
Your position on the matter (*) Oppose
Representing (*) Self
Organization
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? (*) No

Written Testimony

I am currently the eighth grade teacher at the Honolulu Waldorf School. On several occasions we have been blessed with the opportunity to visit Kanewai Spring. During our visits we have had the chance to see firsthand how important this spring is to our island. Our visits have given my students a palpable connection to the land and the cultural history of Hawaii. In this day and age students are experiencing a greater sense of disconnect with their environment. As Richard Louv speaks about in his book, "Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our children from Nature Deficit Disorder," it has become ever more apparent that our children need to feel a connection to nature in order to feel healthy and connected to themselves. They need a sense of place, a sense of identity, and Kanewai Spring is one of those cultural and historical sites that speaks to the children on many levels. One student of mine lives nearby the spring and after visiting the site,

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spoke to me with real reverence and awe about the experience. He said that he'd lived here his whole life and never knew how important this place was. By fostering this kind of respect for our island and its heritage, we are helping the next generation become good stewards of this community, this land, and the ocean. This spring is also vital to the sustainability of Manalua Bay. Because it is a place where the cooler fresh water comes down from the mountains and mixes with the sea water, there is an abundance of life. Many rare species thrive in this environment. One of the largest problems the bay is facing is an invasive seaweed which grows in warmer waters. This seaweed is taking over the reef and causing it to deteriorate. Many groups are trying to remove it in a very labor intensive manner by pulling it up by hand. I also understand that tourism is vital to our states' survival. If the reef goes, the tourism will as well. By keeping the spring intact, the cooler waters are a natural deterrent to the invasive seaweed and a much more effective means of control than current efforts. Our neighboring islands are recognizing the importance of the fishponds and have taken steps to ensure their survival. With only a few remaining on Oahu I feel it is vital that we do everything we can to sustain them. I urge you all to keep the Clean Water funding in the budget for Kanewai Spring, for the future of the states land and ocean, and for our children's future. Thank you for your time and consideration, sincerely, Chris Jansen.

**Testimony
Attachment**

**Accept Terms
and Conditions
(*)**

1